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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/731,844	12/09/2003	Michiaki Okamoto	FP03-152US	4402
1218	7590	01/13/2005	EXAMINER	
CASELLA & HESPOS 274 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10016			VU, HIEN D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 01/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/731,844

Applicant(s)

OKAMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Hien D. Vu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 4-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-3 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 4-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/26/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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1. Applicant's election of species 3, figs. 21-35, claims 4-13, in paper dated 9/02/04 is acknowledged.
2. Claims 10 & 13 are objected to because in claim 10, it is unclear what "means for generating biasing force" is referred to. Also in claim 13, lines 5-7, it is unclear how the resistance acting on the operable member could suddenly decrease.
3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

4. (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
5. Claims 4, 5, 9-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Martin (6,113,407).

The disclosure of Martin (407) provides a complete response to each and every element set forth in the claims. For example: Figs. 1-6 show a housing 42, a mating housing 94, at least one follower pin (108, 110), a movable member 4, at least one cam groove 12 having a starting end 13 and a terminals end (not labeled), a returning portion (not labeled) adjacent to the terminal end configured to displace the housing (42, 94) in separating direction.

As to claim 5, a straight portion (not labeled) between the starting and terminals ends, inclined with the operating direction.

As to claim 9, the claim recites substantially corresponding to the connector of claim 1, therefore it is rejected under the similar rationale.

As to claim 10, seals (66, 68) are read as means for generating biasing forces.

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As to claim 11, at least one seal (66, 68).

As to claim 12, an inner pressure of the inner space gradually increases to create biasing force as shown in fig. 6.

As to claim 13, it appears the resistance acting on the operable member 4 would decrease when the follower pin (108, 110) reached the returning portion.

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin (407) in view of Woller et al (086).

Martin does not clearly show the returning portion being inclined with respect to the operation direction in an opposite direction to an inclination of the straight portion. Woller, fig. 2 shows a returning portion adjacent to a terminal end (not labeled) being inclined with respect to an operation direction in an opposite direction to an inclination of a straight portion. It would have been obvious to one with skill in the art to modify the connector of Martin by forming the returning portion of the cam groove with features as described above, as taught by Woller in order to ensure properly mating between the connectors.

As to claim 7, a peak (not labeled) as shown in fig. 2 of Woller.

As to claim 8, an angle of inclination of a front edge the returning portion is substantially shown in a range about 10 degree to about 5 degree as shown in fig. 2 of Woller.

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8. Tsukahashi et al (5,575,676) Pamart et al and Jaklin are cited or disclosure of electrical connectors having cam members.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Hein D. Vu at telephone number (571) 272-2016.

Vu/ds

12/16/04


HIEN VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER